

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1921

WHAT DOES "THE THINKER" THINK?

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You Will Welcome To-day This Cartoon by Mr. Oppen, One of the Most Distinguished and Best Known of Cartoonists. He Shows You a Reproduction of "The Thinker," Famous Statue by Rodin, the Frenchman. The Idea, Which You Will Grasp at Once, and of Which You Will Make Good Use Among Foolish Young People, Is: "What Would a Serious Thinker THINK if He Spent His Time Contemplating

to warn her against a dark woman and promise her a tall and handsome millionaire has in her character other sides less foolish. She may even go out and wisely decide to marry some earnest young person with no millions and many freckles.

Everything changes. The creeping caterpillar for whom you feel as sorry as you do for the buyer of wildcat stocks, that caterpillar is the gay butterfly of to-morrow, up in the air above your head. And sometimes the wildcat purchaser, after being thoroughly bitten, becomes a sensible investor, knowing real value when he sees it.

Mr. Oppen's idea in this picture is not to make fun of human weakness, but to give to readers, who will turn it over to those that need it, a sort of admonitory-warning-cartoon-valentine. In every corner of this cartoon there is a good-natured smile, for all of Oppen's teaching and rebuking is based on good nature, sym-

the Foolishness and Weakness of His Fellow Human Beings?"

Individual Life Is Short, Although Fortunately the World Is Going to Last Several Thousand Million Years, According to the Scientists.

This Life of a Few Years Has Few Opportunities, and How Many of Them Are Wasted? How Often Do You See What Mr. Oppen Shows in the Cartoon? How Rarely You See the Earnest Side of Humanity That Makes It Worth While.

pathy for human weakness. To show a man to himself as others see him is the best possible sermon. Every reader of this newspaper will know somebody represented somewhere in this cartoon. A good idea is to cut the picture out, mark at the right place the words, "Think about this for a moment," and mail it.

What is the greatest human weakness shown in this picture? It is CREDULITY, unlimited capacity for believing almost anything. A poor fool reads that if he will bring his money to "Slippery and Slick" he can invest it on a basis of 150 or 500 per cent. He knows well that money is worth only eight per cent at most, even in these days of usury. But out he goes, with his pocketbook, and when he comes to the office of "Slippery and Slick," IN he goes. Sometimes it takes a dozen lessons to cure him, sometimes a whole lifetime does not cure him.

The fortune teller's victim knows perfectly well that "the tall, handsome millionaire" is

not to be purchased for three dollars from "Madame Bunk," fortune teller. Nevertheless she takes her three dollars to "Madame Bunk" and is quite contented of coming away because, like the foolish wildcat speculators and the other victims of credulity, SHE HAS HEARD WHAT SHE WANTED TO HEAR.

A good deal of apparent human foolishness and emptiness of mind is caused by life's dullness. Upton Sinclair, of "The Jungle" fame, once wrote a good line. Replying to those that had criticized hard-working, underpaid men for getting drunk, Upton Sinclair asked, "If you were in hell, wouldn't you get drunk if you could?" The answer was, of course, that anybody in torment would do anything to escape from realization of the horror about him.

Many human beings do very foolish things to escape from the boredom around them and the mental dullness within themselves.

Women shut out from all share in public important affairs have concentrated too much attention on fashions, on their own personality, instead of developing their own minds. That will change now that wider opportunities are offered.

Foolish young men make heroes of prize-fighters and baseball players, jockeys and others not important intellectually, because they have never been taught what really IS worth while in the world.

If you see your friend in this picture, warn him. If you see any useful hint for yourself, don't RESENT it, make it USEFUL.

There is hope for every one of Mr. Oppen's characters but ONE—the one that will not learn.

"I

WILL praise the Lord, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made," said the wise man of old.

Some, fortunately, realize what Nature and Providence give them. Here you see the foolish that seem to realize nothing and that might well say of themselves, "I am fearfully and foolishly unworthy of the opportunities that life puts before me."

A thinker from another planet, looking at this crowd of foolish humans, representing, only too well, many millions among us, would leave the earth discouraged, saying: "Those poor creatures down there are not worth the slightest attention. I will travel no longer among them."

This picture by Mr. Oppen is like a photograph of folly. But his description of certain types, fortunately, is not quite as bad as it seems. If it were, the best thing that could happen to the earth would be for a comet to strike it, or some dark huge body to collide with it, and scatter it back to original dust.

Many of the very foolish, well and humorously presented here, become less foolish as time goes by. The man reading the "Dream Book" sometimes changes his reading to a better book or changes his dreams into action.

The poor fool that bets on the races or gambles in some other way occasionally discovers that gambling is the most dangerous of the vices, and is the better for a temporary sad experience.

The young lady that pays the fortune teller